

**CNPS SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
2 August, 2017**

**San Diego Audubon Offices, 4010 Morena Blvd. Suite 100 San Diego, CA
DRAFT MINUTES**

Call to Order: President Bobbie Stephenson calls the meeting to order at 0630 p.m.

Board Members Present: Robert Byrnes, Cindy Burrascano, Mike Evans, Connie di Girolamo, Frank Landis, Sue Marchetti, Torrey Neel, Tom Oberbauer, Joseph Sochor, and Bobbie Stephenson.

Board Members Absent: None

Guests/Visitors: Justin Daniel, Lea Saunders, Ann Van Leer (Escondido Creek Conservancy Executive Director of Conservancy), Julie Venola

I. Quick personal reports and welcome visitors

President Bobbie Stephenson calls the meeting to order at approximately 0640 p.m.

II. Mini Grant Proposals

A. **Carleton Oaks Elementary School** (Joseph Sochor): There was a thorough discussion regarding the request.

A motion is made by Torrey Neel and seconded by Tom Oberbauer to grant to Carleton Oaks Elementary School \$500.00 for a school native garden as proposed in the grant application. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Escondido Creek Conservancy** (Ann Van Leer): Mini-grant request for a butterfly garden at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve parking lot.

A motion is made by Joseph Sochor and seconded by Frank Landis to grant \$500.00 to the Escondido Creek Conservancy for the purchase of native plants, planting them and preparing educational materials as proposed in the grant application. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

A. ASLA/Cabrillo National Monument Grant update (C. di Girolamo) & Upcoming Board Election (B. Stephenson)

B. Vote to Approve:

A motion is made by Frank Landis and seconded by Connie di Girolamo to approve the Agenda with the changes noted. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Review of July Meeting Minutes (Evans):

A motion is made by Frank Landis and seconded by Tom Oberbauer to approve the July Minutes with minor changes as noted. The motion passed unanimously.

V. **Treasurer's Report** (di Girolamo): Connie addressed the July report with minor modifications. Connie indicated that she purchased three 10 x 10 ft shade canopies for Chapter events.

A motion is made by Frank Landis and seconded by Tom Oberbauer to accept the July Treasurer's Report as presented with modifications as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. **Committee Reports:**

- A. **Programs** (Torrey Neel): Torrey summarizes the scheduled upcoming program speakers.
- B. **Conservation** (Frank Landis): Frank summarizes conservation issues he is following for the Chapter; the deadline for comments on the Newland project at the Merriam Mountains is 15 August 2017.
- C. **Fall Plant Sale** (Connie di Girolamo): Connie discusses the progress on the plant sale for Carolyn Martus, who was unable to attend the meeting.
- D. **Personnel Committee** (Bobbie Stephenson & Connie di Girolamo): Bobbie has sent the appropriate contracts to the state office but has not yet received further feedback/instructions. Connie discusses the meeting on volunteer participation that included Connie, Mike Evans and Al Field. It was suggested that a survey be sent to members for interest in volunteering. Connie will send out a draft questionnaire. Mike Evans agreed to send Connie notes on the Retreat.
- E. **Garden Native Workshop** (Connie di Girolamo): Judie Lincer indicates that planning for the work shop is coming along well and will possibly include a mini plant sale.
- F. **Garden Committee** (Sue Marchetti): Sue discusses the County fair exhibit for use of native plants in gardens. Highlights would likely include appreciation of the best use of natives, maybe a gift of \$100. This could be a CNPS award given to a good exhibiter at the fair. Could be given by the Garden Committee with either an award or a bowl. The board is supportive of the GC who should prepare a plan to implement possible suggestions.

VII. **Current Business:**

- A. **Strategic Plan** (Mike Evans): A brief discussion and suggested minor modifications.

Tom Oberbauer moves and Frank Landis seconds a motion to adopt the 2017 Strategic Plan for the San Diego Chapter. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. **Chapter Annual Report** (Bobbie Stephenson): Bobbie indicated that she had not received all the committee information yet.
- C. **2017 Chapter Executive Board Election** (Bobbie Stephenson): Bobbie reported that the 2016 Board election included Cindy Burrascano, Mike Evans, Sue Marchetti, Mike Gonzales (Torrey Neel appointed to fill his position), Robert Byrnes, and Connie di Girolamo. Robert, Connie and Justin Daniel indicate they would run for positions on the Board.
- D. **ASLA grant for native plants at Cabrillo National Monument** (Connie di Girolamo): Funds have been received for Greg Rubin and Kay Stewart's work on the project. Mike Gonzales had designated Al Field to be the Project Manager; the \$5000 grant is over November 1, 2017. September planting will be done by Greg's staff. So, by December 1st, we should be finished with the grant.

Tom Oberbauer moves and Mike Evans seconds a motion to appoint Al Field as the on the ground project coordinator (and Connie di Girolamo will be the Board contact person) for the ASLA grant for native plant garden improvements at Cabrillo National Monument. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Robert Byrnes's award through the County Board of Supervisors was briefly discussed.

VII. New Business

- A. **Consideration of a grant for additional funds to the San Diego County Plant Atlas** (Tom Oberbauer): Tom notes that funding is still needed for the Plant Atlas, especially for helping to pay for collected plant processing and for a flora of Imperial County.

Tom Oberbauer moves and Frank Landis seconds a motion to grant the San Diego Natural History Museum \$5000 exclusively for the plant atlas program that would be divided as follows: \$3000 for Imperial County, and \$2000 for the San Diego County atlas plant processing. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. **Coordinating with other organizations** (Joseph Sochor): Joseph leads a discussion as to whether the Chapter should create some formal affiliations with some other local nonprofit organizations. We could be present some at the other organizations events; help advertise special events from the other orgs, share some posts through social groups, etc. Such organizations could include: the Living Coast discovery Center, the San Diego River Park Foundation, San Diego Canyonlands, San Diego Audubon, San Elijo Conservancy, and Think Blue (city of San Diego). No action was taken.
- C. **Chapter Monthly Meetings** (various): Joseph opens a general discussion about the need for a better sound system in the meeting room. Connie points out that we have money in the budget to purchase equipment as needed to improve the meeting effectiveness. Frank agrees to look into the existing sound system and do some training on how to run the AV equipment if he is not able to attend a meeting.
Torrey notes the need to have combination locks on the lockers so that we do not need to trade the sets of keys for access.

VIII. Wrap up and conclusions:

Frank Landis moves and Tom Oberbauer seconds a motion to adjourn the meeting at 0900 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachments:

1. Chapter Treasurer's Report for July 2017
2. Carleton Oaks Elementary School Mini Grant Proposal
3. Escondido Creek Conservancy Mini Grant Proposal
4. Adopted Strategic Plan
5. ?Letter awarding San Diego Natural History Museum plant atlas program grant?

